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pages of petitions, comments, replies and supporting materials have been filed in this docket, and the parties – including the moving parties – have taken full advantage of the permit-but-disclose nature of this proceeding by both meeting with Commission Staff and filing hundreds of ex parte submissions. Moreover, the Commission has held three public meetings regarding the merger. Taken together, these various submissions and meetings make the SBC/Ameritech merger perhaps the most commented-upon merger in Commission history.

There has also been ample opportunity for all parties to comment on the issue of conditions following the release of the Chairman's April 1, 1999 letter that established the framework for the discussions between the Staff and representatives of SBC and Ameritech. Moreover, the Commission held a public forum while the discussions were ongoing at which Commission Staff made all parties aware of their preliminary views of the merger and of the Staff's perceived need for conditions, and also solicited further public comments.

In addition to these proceedings before the Commission, the issues raised by the Applicants' proposed conditions have also been raised in other proceedings, such as the proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and in the Texas collaborative process. There is simply no basis for the moving parties to suggest that they are not in a position to assess the proposed conditions and to comment without undue delay. Indeed, by making arguments on the merits of the proposed conditions, the motion for an extension of time itself demonstrates that these parties have no problem identifying the issues on which they wish to comment and making their arguments.

Finally, further delay is not in the public interest. The telecommunications industry is perhaps the most rapidly changing industry today, and both the applicants (who need to react quickly to those changes) and the public (which will benefit from the increased competition the merger will bring) are ill served by delay. Indeed, no parties should understand this better than AT&T, MCI WorldCom and Sprint, who would obviously like to put off as long as possible the day when they will be required to compete with SBC/Ameritech.

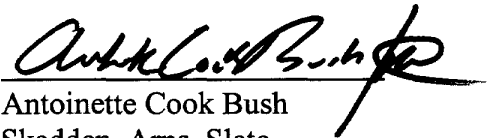
For the reasons set forth above, there is no need for any extension of time. While SBC and Ameritech would not object to a brief extension of no more than a few days, the more lengthy extension sought by the moving parties should be rejected.

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Certificate of Service

I, Elizabeth Ann Regan, hereby certify that the foregoing Joint Opposition of SBC Communications Inc., and Ameritech Corporation to Motion for Extension of Time was served by first class mail, postage prepaid, on the following parties (except for FCC staff and International Transcription Service, Inc., who were served by hand) this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1999.

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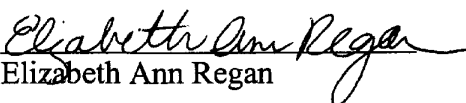
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